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THE PLANET MOBIUS WAS ONCE A VIRTUAL PARADISE UNTIL IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK! HIS TECHNOLOGICAL TYRANNY WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IF NOT FOR A HEROIC GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO BANDED TOGETHER AND RESTORED ORDER TO THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! THE BRAVEST AMONG THEM IS A BLUE STREAK FILLED WITH THE MOST ATTITUDE GOING AROUND - - AND, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE IS THE FASTEST THING ALIVE! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

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saving nate morgan

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS SALLY?
SURE, SONIC... EXCEPT FOR THAT AREA AT THE BACK OF NECK WHERE NACK (THAT NO-GOOD WEASEL) WHACKED ME*
*SEE LAST ISSUE - JF6
HOW ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE? TAILS... ROTOR... BUNNIE... ANTOINE... AMY ROSE... ARE YOU ALL OKAY?
ONLY OUR PRIDE WAS HURT IN THAT THERE RUCKUS*, SUGAH-HOG! JUST WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT WEB-SPINNIN' ARACHNIS!
* ALSO LAST ISS.
DO NOT FRET, BUNNIE-- SHE IS SURE TO BE RE-CEIVING AN UP-COMEANCE!
THOSE CRIMINALS ARE GONNA GET WHAT'S COMIN' TO 'EM--NO WAY IS ANYBODY GONNA JUST WALTZ IN HERE AND KIDNAP A FRIEND O' MINE!
THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHAT THOSE NO-GOOD-NIKS'LL DO TO POOR NATE IF THEY--
WHO CARES WHAT THEY DO TO HIM?! JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE--MY HUSBAND AND I PUT OUR SWEAT AND TEARS INTO THIS JUICE BAR--
--AND NOW LOOK! IT'S COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED!
BUT IT WASN'T NATE'S FAULT! DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND? HIS SCIENTIFIC SKILLS MAKE HIM A TOP SECRET INGREDIENT OR SOMETHIN'--EVERYBODY WANTS TO GET A HOLD OF HIM!
TELL IT TO THE SECRET SERVICE!
WE'LL HAVE TO DO ONE BETTER THAN THAT AND TELL YOUR DAD, SALLY!
YOU SAID IT, SONIC! NEXT STOP--
EXIT
3

--CASTLE ACORN!
MY APOLOGIES ONCE AGAIN, SIRE, BUT NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE LAST WE SPOKE--THE TWO SHUTTLE-CRAFTS FOUND IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE DEVIL'S ISLAND GULAG WERE INDEED EMPTY...
...LEADING ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE ESCAPED PRISONERS PERISHED IN THE AREA'S BOILING OCEANS!
A TRAGIC END TO A TRAGIC TALE, GEOFFREY...
DAD!
SALLY--WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NATE--HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!
K-KIDNAPPED? BY WHOM?
SNIVELY.
HE, ALONG WITH KODOS, PREDATOR HAWK, DRAGO, LIGHTNING LYNX, FLYING FROG AND JUST ABOUT ANYBODY WHO SHARED A CELL AT THE DEVIL'S ISLAND GULAG GOT US ALL PRETTY GOOD.*
4
*Again last issue - JFG

IMPOSSIBLE I SAY--THERE IS NO WAY THAT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN THE ATTACKERS! MY AGENTS AND I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THERE!
THEN THEY WERE SHAPE-SHIFTERS.. OR EVIL-DOUBLES...OR CLONES--WHATEVER! CAN I TALK TO SOMEBODY WITH SOME AUTHORITY AROUND HERE?
'CUZ THE GOON SQUAD'S ON THE LOOSE AND THEY'VE GOT MY FRIEND!
BUT, SONIC, HOW COULD THE KIDNAPPERS BE THE ESCAPED PRISONERS WHEN THEIR SHUTTLE-CRAFTS WERE FOUND A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE GULAG? HOW COULD THEY POSSIBLY HAVE MADE THE TREK BACK TO MOBOTROPOLIS IN SUCH RECORD TIME?
MAYBE I CAN PROVIDE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION!
DOCTOR QUACK!
NONE OTHER... SEVERAL OF THE MALNOURISHED PRISON GUARDS, PLACED IN THE LOCK-UP BY SNIVELY'S CREW--
--HAVE REGAINED THEIR STRENGTH ENOUGH TO INFORM ME OF A THIRD MISSING SHUTTLE-CRAFT.
OKAY--SO THEY'VE GOT A SET O' WINGS! THE NUMERO UNO QUESTION STILL ON MY MIND IS WHERE THOSE NO-GOODNIKS TOOK NATE!
WELL...I MAY NOT HAVE A RELIABLE SOURCE LIKE THE GOOD DOCTOR BUT I DO HAVE A MAP OF THE PLANET AT MY DISPOSAL...
...AND ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE A LONGSHOT PERHAPS THE FELONS FLED NO FURTHER THAN THE LAND MASS CLOSEST TO DEVIL'S ISLAND!
5

OF COURSE...THE OL' HIDIN' IN PLAIN SIGHT ROUTINE! NICE JOB, PRINCE ELIAS!
ALL RIGHT, FREEDOM FIGHTERS-- ARE WE READY TO JUICE OR WHAT?
SONIC!
WHAT ON MOBIUS DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER! THE KINGDOM OF ACORN IS NO LONGER AT WAR --IT NO LONGER EXPECTS CHILDREN TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST ITS ENEMIES.
THE INCARCERATION OF SNIVELY'S RENEGADES AND THE RETRIEVAL OF NATE MORGAN WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY MY OWN SECRET SERVICE --LED BY NONE OTHER THAN COMMANDER GEOFFREY St. JOHN.
WHAT?
DADDY-- YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
WE'VE TACKLED THOSE CREEPS NO SWEAT! WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE FOR YEARS!
THEN HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO GET THE JUMP ON YOU EARLIER? AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT...
...THE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, AS OF THIS MOMENT, ARE OFFICALLY DISBANDED!
St. JOHN?
AT ONCE, MY LIEGE! HERSHEY... VALDEZ... WOMBAT 5TH... HEAVY... BOMB...
...LET'S GO!
6

MANY HOURS LATER, A ROYAL SUBMARINE (CREATED FROM LEFTOVER SCRAP METAL) EMERGES FROM THE LUKEWARM DEPTHS OFF THE COAST OF BIG KAHUNA ISLAND.

OKAY, AGENTS, THIS IS OUR MOMENT OF TRUTH-- WE'LL BE FACING OFF AGAINST SOME MIGHTY TOUGH CUSTOMERS AND THEY'RE RIGHT AHEAD OF US...

...IN WEST ROBOTROPOLIS, A CITY THAT'S BEEN DESERTED SINCE THE FALL OF DOCTOR ROBOTNIK.

IT'S THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE FOR SNIVELY AND HIS BAND OF ROGUES!

RUMOR HAS IT THAT ROBOTNIK WAS USING THE CITY AND THE SURROUNDING ISLAND AS A TESTING GROUND FOR EXPERIMENTS OF A SECRET NATURE. IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT...

HOLD THAT THOUGHT.

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING CLICHE -- Uhh... WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
YOU'VE ABSOLUTELY NO BUSINESS ON BIG KAHUNA, HEDGEHOG!
YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF A DIRECT ORDER FROM KING ACORN -- CAPTURING ESCAPED PRISONERS IS A JOB FOR SEASONED PROFESSIONALS ONLY!
WHY, YOU'RE JUST A KID!
SAVE IT, St. JOHN -- I'M SIXTEEN! SURE, KING MAX DISBANDED THE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE FREEDOM FIGHTERS...
...SO THAT'S WHY I'M HERE AS A FREE AGENT!
ELSEWHERE IN WEST ROBOTROPOLIS...
YOU'RE MAKING THIS SO UNCOMFORTABLE FOR US, MISTER MORGAN...
OH, REALLY?
YES... I'D FEEL SO MUCH BETTER IF YOU WOULD AGREE TO PROVIDE YOUR SERVICES TO MY COHORTS AND ME!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, Hmm?
8

AND
I'M TELLING YOU SONIC IF YOU HOPE TO BE PART OF THIS MISSION YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO BE A TEAM PLAYER
WELL, Y'KNOW THERE WERE ALL THE REASONS WHY WE CALLED OURSELVES THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, BUT TOTALLY BUT MAINLY IT WAS CAUSE THERE WERE MORE THAN ONE OF US
GORROWWWLL
FROM 2
COME ON SONIC--IT'S TIME TO SHAKE AND BAKE! WE'VE SPOTTED SOMETHING UP AHEAD!
ABANDONED COURTHOUSE--OUR QUARRY MUST BE WITHIN!
RIGHT THEN TROOPS--LET'S GET THIS PLACE SURROUNDED SO I CAN ORDER THESE ROUGHNECKS TO

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE?
IT'S A BAD MOVE IF YOU GO THROUGH WITH THIS PLAN. NATE'LL GRADUATE FROM KIDNAP VICTIM TO HOSTAGE!
AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU
CAUSED TO BEFALL SALLY AND QUEEN ALICIA DURING THE GREAT WAR
*Read last issue and KNUCKLES #20 for more detail S-JFG
WHY BLAME NATE FOR THAT?
HE WASN'T EVEN AROUND FOR THE GREAT WAR. YOUR BROTHER KNOWS WHAT A GREAT HERO HE IS. DOOFUS!
THAT
WHAT THIS MEANS
YOU'LL SEE THAT I CAN GIVE AS GOOD AS I GET, SONIC
MAYBE MORE

CLEARLY JEOPARDIZES THE MISSION!
I HOLD THE HIGHEST RANK HERE SOLDIER- LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF THAT!
HOW DO YOU JUDGE THIS COMMANDER?
COURTHOUSE
I DON'T LIKE YOU BACK WHEN YOU WERE THE KINGDOM'S WAR-LORD
LOSS
11

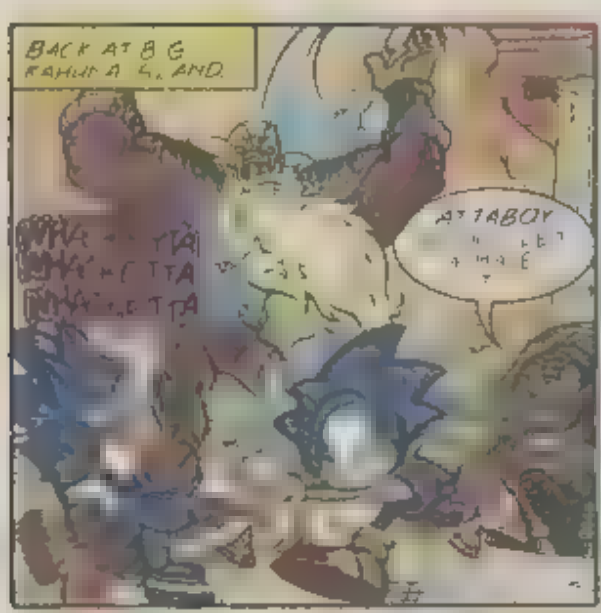
KER-RAKT
CHARGE!

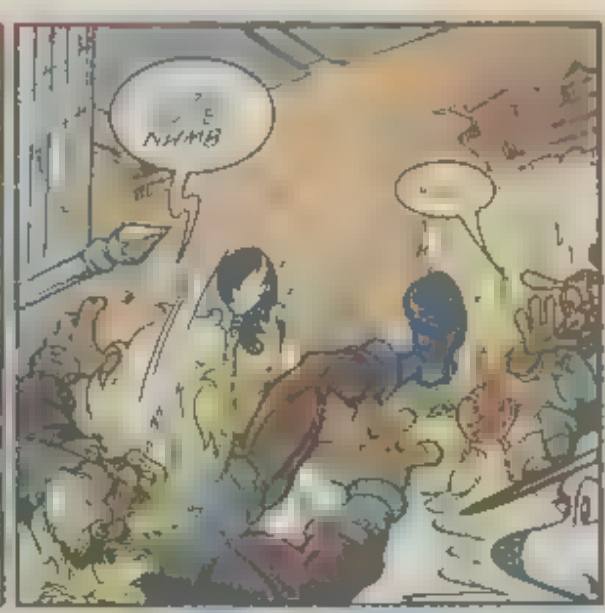
R SAT LNIT
ARCH ON LINE

AND
COMMENCING
SYSTEM LOCATION
OF TARGET

TARGET
ACQUIRED SYSTEM
LOCKED-AND
BEGINNING
ACTIVATION

NOW


BACK AT B.G. KAHUNA LAND.
ATTABOY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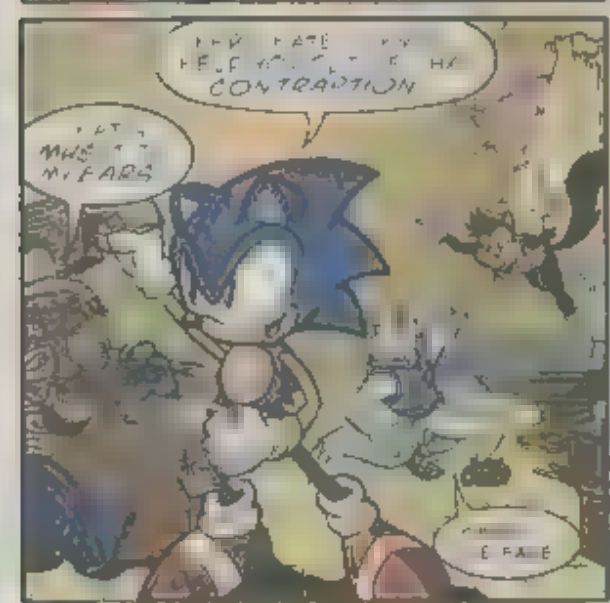
CONTRAPTION
MY EARS

WRONG!

RUMMMMMBLLL
SULES
EARTH QUAKE!
14
KERPRAK

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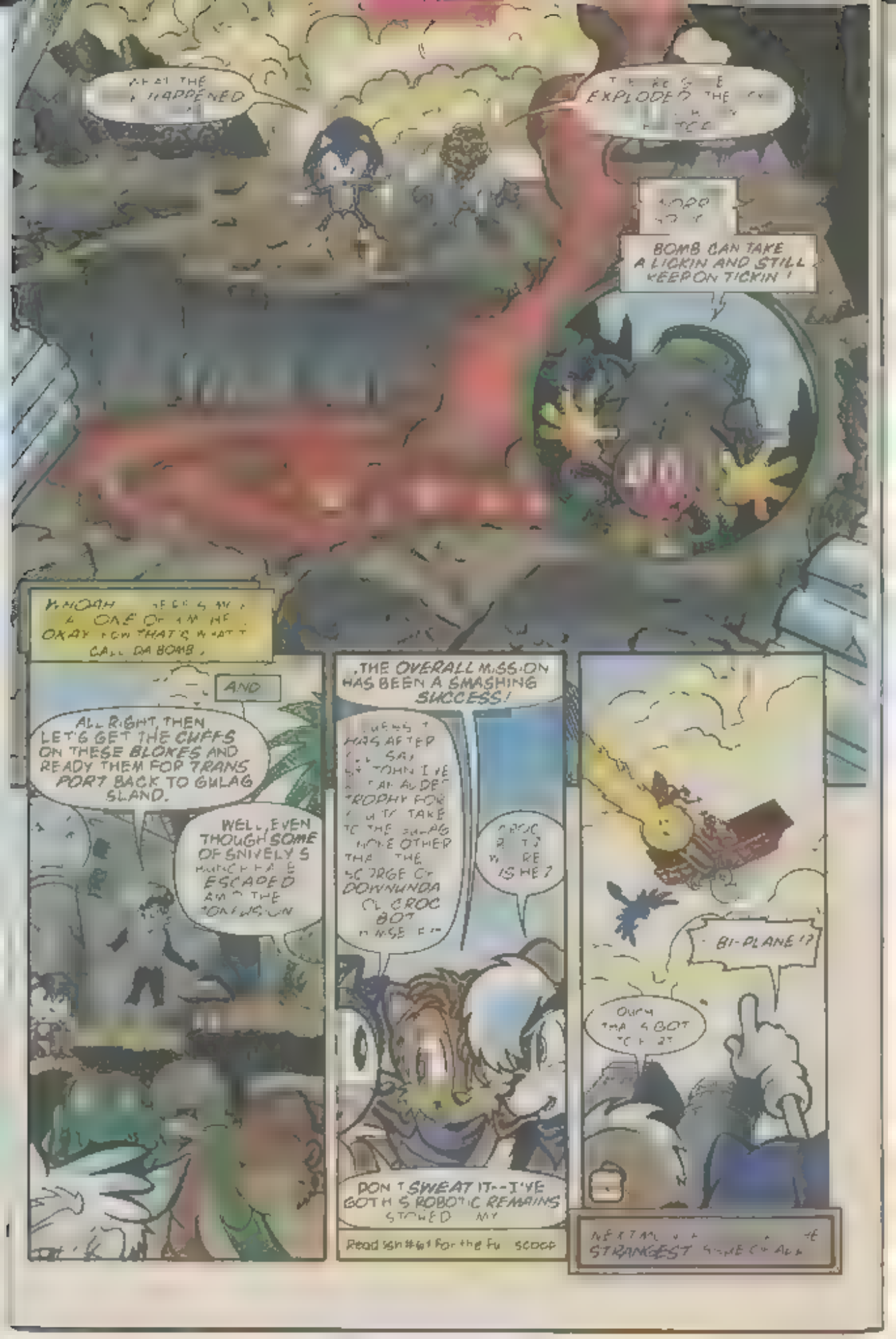
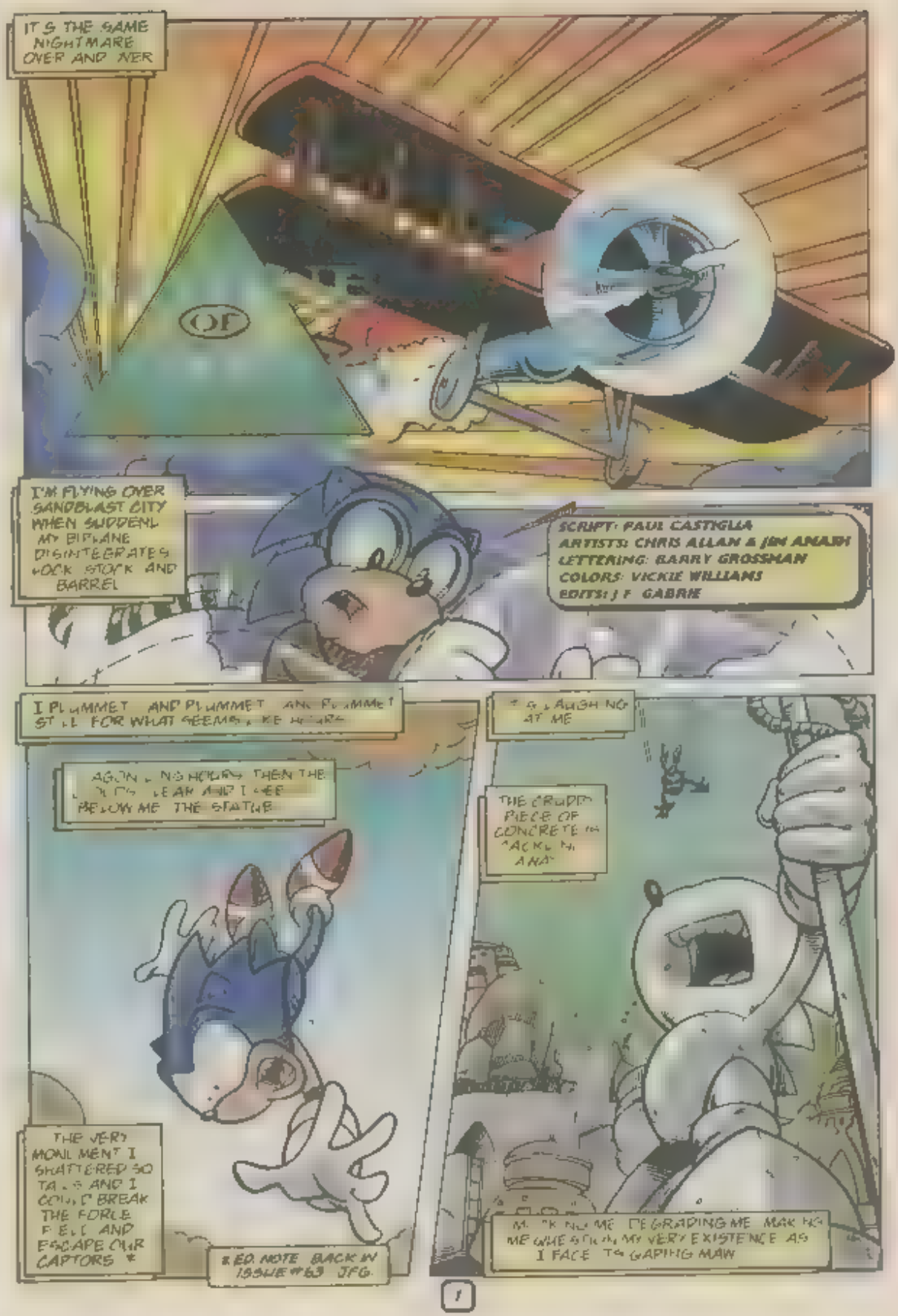
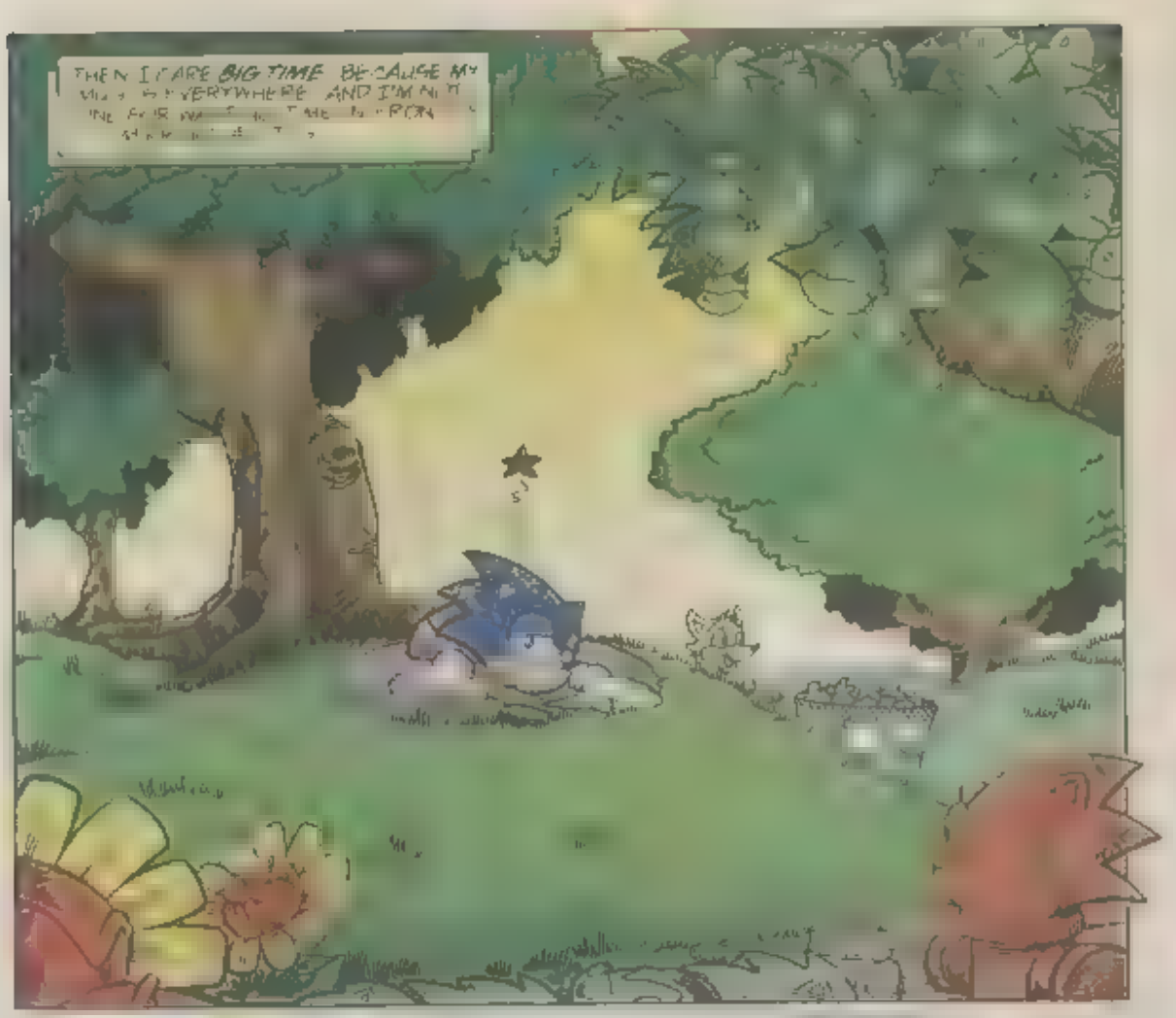
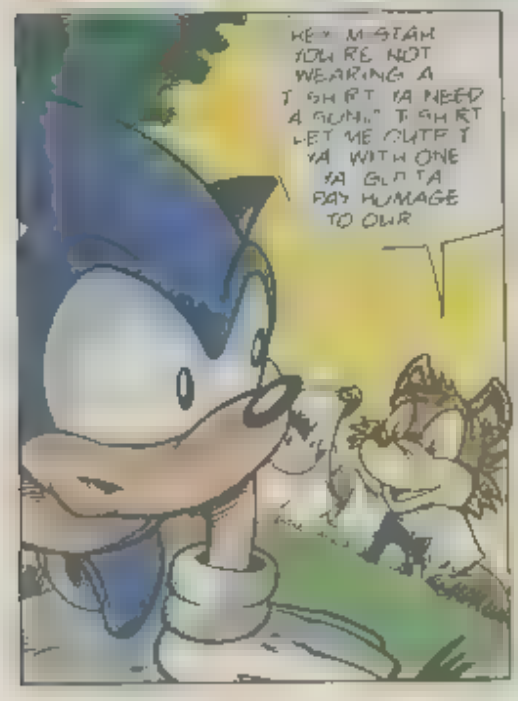
THE OLD COURT-
MUTATE
COMPANION
BOOM


EXPLODED
BOMB CAN TAKE A LICKIN AND STILL KEEP ON TICKIN !
OKAY
CALL DA BOMB
AND
ALL RIGHT, THEN LET'S GET THE CUFFS ON THESE BLOKES AND READY THEM FOR TRANS PORT BACK TO GULAG ISLAND.
WELL, EVEN THOUGH SOME OF SNIVELY'S
ESCAPED
THE OVERALL MISSION HAS BEEN A SMASHING SUCCESS!
HAS AFTER
TROPHY FOR
TAKE
OTHER
THE
DOWNUNDA
CROC BOT
IS HE ?
DON'T SWEAT IT--I'VE GOT HIS ROBOTIC REMAINS STOWED
Read Issue #61 for the Full SCOOP
BI-PLANE !?
OUCH
NEXT ON
STRANGEST

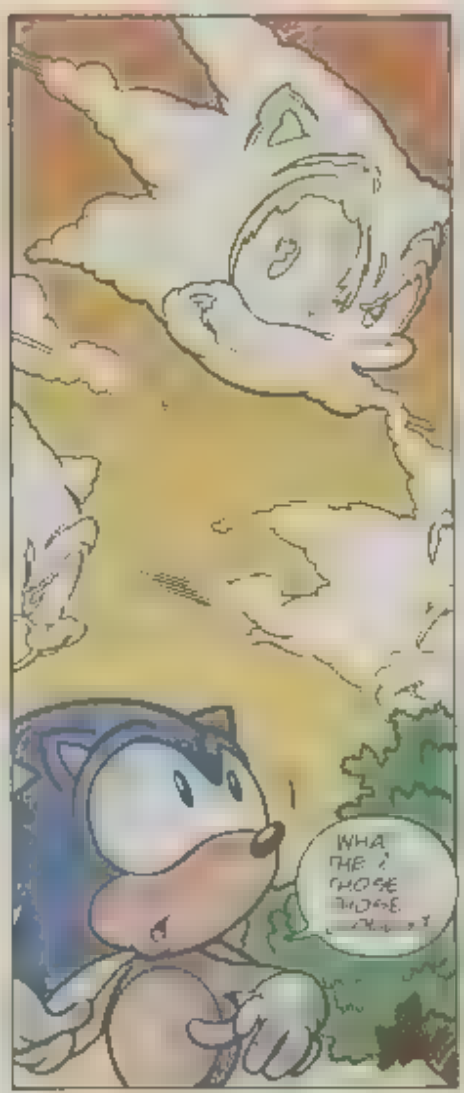

IT'S THE SAME NIGHTMARE OVER AND OVER
I'M FLYING OVER SANDBLAST CITY WHEN SUDDENLY MY BIPLANE DISINTEGRATES LOCK STOCK AND BARREL
SCRIPT: PAUL CASTIGLIA
ARTISTS: CHRIS ALLAN & JIM ANASTI
LETTERING: BARRY GROSSMAN
COLORS: VICKIE WILLIAMS
EDITS: J.F. GABRIE
I PLUMMET AND PLUMMET AND PLUMMET STILL FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE HOURS
AGONIZING HOURS THEN THE CLOUDS CLEAR AND I SEE BELOW ME THE STATUE
THE VERY MONUMENT I SHATTERED SO TAUNTS AND I COULD BREAK THE FORCE FIELD AND ESCAPE OUR CAPTORS *
* ED. NOTE BACK IN ISSUE #63 JFG.
* & LAUGH NO AT ME
THE CRUDDY PIECE OF CONCRETE IS BACK TO ANNOY
MOCK NO ME DEGRADING ME MAKING ME WISH MY VERY EXISTENCE AS I FACE THE GAPING MAW

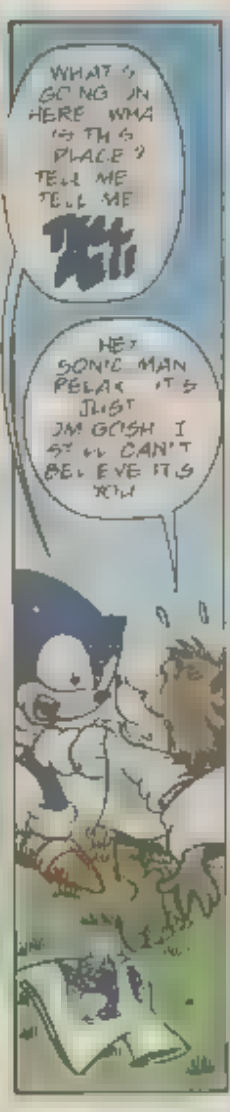
THEN I WAKE UP IN A POOL OF SWEAT HEAR POUNDING AND COMPLETELY DISHEVELED
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DREAM MEANS BUT I NEVER GET TO END
PROBLEM IS, SOMETHING HOLDS ME BACK NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I WAKE UP AT THE SAME POINT IN THE DREAM
I NEVER MAKE IT INTO THE MOUTH OF THE STATUE AS I AM AFRAID OF WHAT I'LL FIND ON THE OTHER SIDE
SEE IT'S BEEN AN ALL ALONG BUT TONIGHT I'M NOT GOING TO LET TIME HOLD MYSELF BACK TONIGHT I FIND OUT HOW THE DREAM ENDS
THAT'S RIGHT I'M GOING INTO MY NIGHT BE THE BREAKTHROUGH I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR OR MAYBE I'M JUST LITERALLY DYING INTO THE MOUTH OF MADNESS
WHAT A RUSH!
I'M SO FAR THE SINGLE I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M HEADED AND I DON'T CARE
UNTIL I HIT BOTTOM THAT'S THEN I CARE

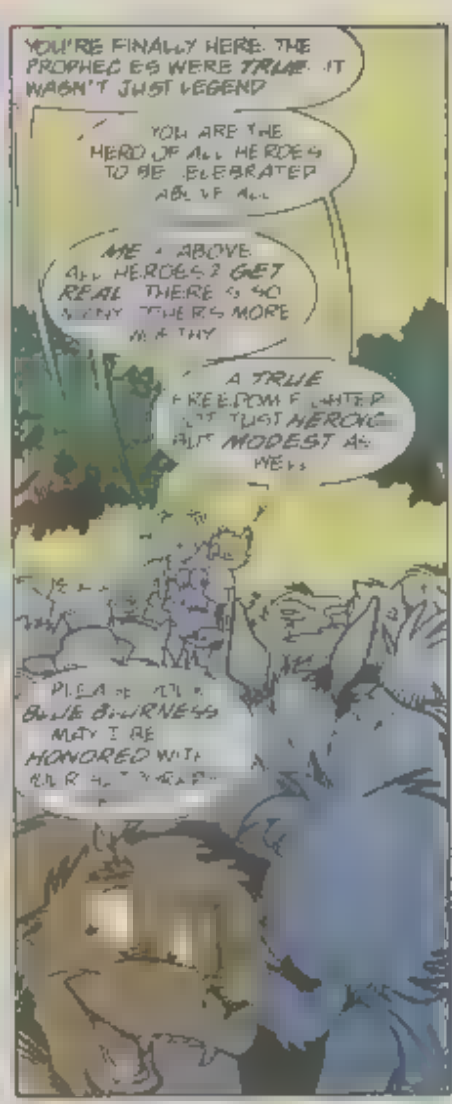

THEN I'M ARE BIG TIME BECAUSE MY

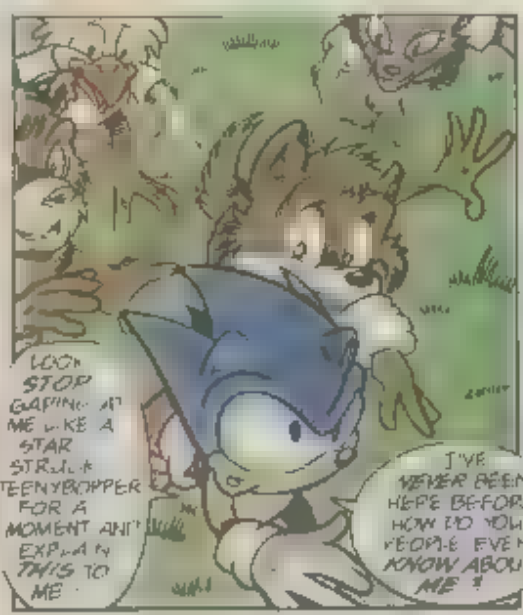

HEY M STAN YOU'RE NOT WEARING A T SHIRT YA NEED A GUN... T SHIRT LET ME OUTFIT YA WITH ONE YA GOTTA PAY HOMAGE TO OUR

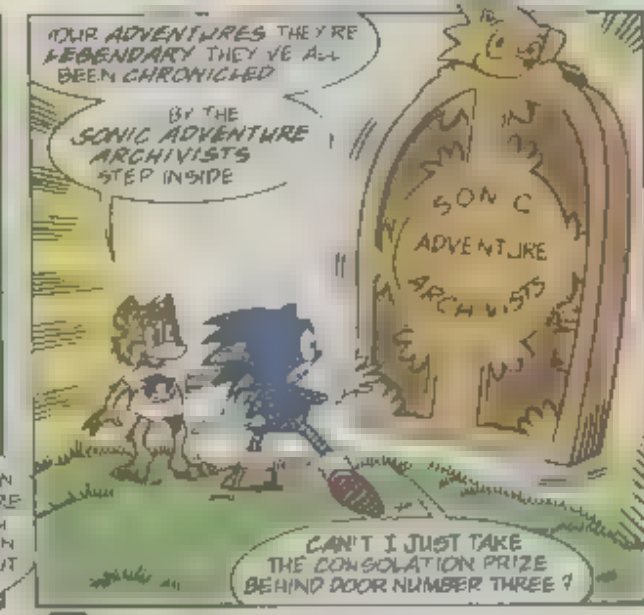
HE HE HERO OH MY I I CAN BELIEVE IT RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME
HEY DUDE CHILL I JUST


WHA THE ! CHOSE THOSE

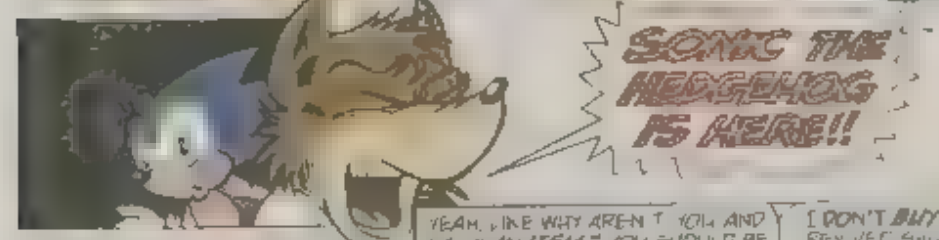

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE WHA IS THIS PLACE? TELL ME TELL ME
HEY SONIC MAN RELAX IT'S JUST OH GOSH I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S YOU


YOU'RE FINALLY HERE. THE PROPHECIES WERE TRUE. IT WASN'T JUST LEGEND
YOU ARE THE HERO OF ALL HEROES TO BE CELEBRATED ABOVE ALL
ME ABOVE ALL HEROES? GET REAL THERE'S SO MANY THERE'S MORE WHATHY
A TRUE FREEDOM FIGHTER NOT JUST HEROIC BUT MODEST AS WELL
PLEASE TELL BLUE BLURNESS MAY I BE HONORED WITH

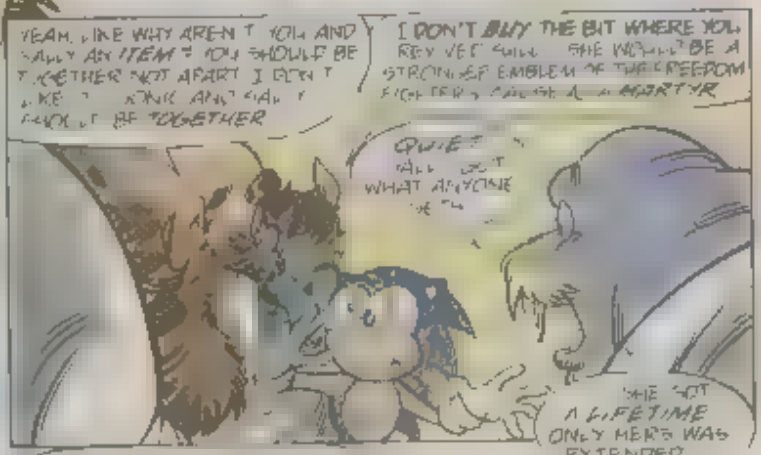

LOOK STOP GAPING AT ME LIKE A STAR STRUCK TEENYBOPPER FOR A MOMENT AND EXPLAIN THIS TO ME
I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE HOW DO YOU PEOPLE EVEN KNOW ABOUT ME?


YOUR ADVENTURES THEY'RE LEGENDARY THEY'VE ALL BEEN CHRONICLED
BY THE SONIC ADVENTURE ARCHIVISTS STEP INSIDE
SONIC ADVENTURE ARCHIVISTS
CAN'T I JUST TAKE THE CONSOLATION PRIZE BEHIND DOOR NUMBER THREE?

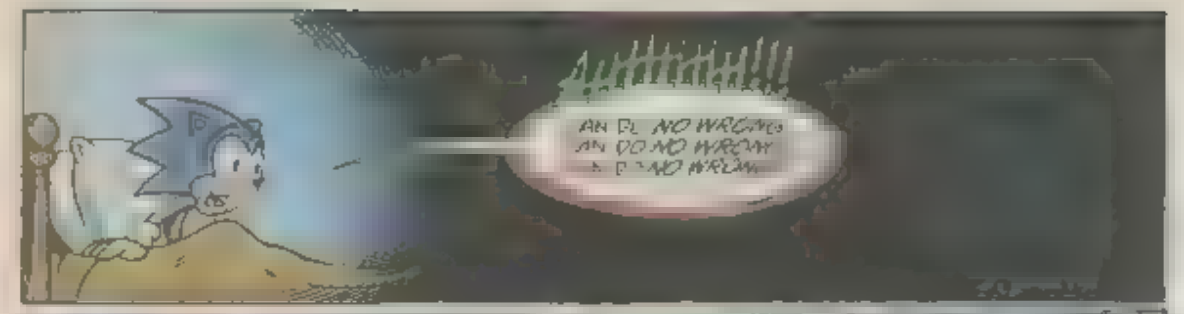
UH, FELLAS I HATE TO INTERRUPT BUT WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT
FELLAS? DID YOU HEAR
FELLAS?


SONIC THE HEDGEHOG IS HERE!!

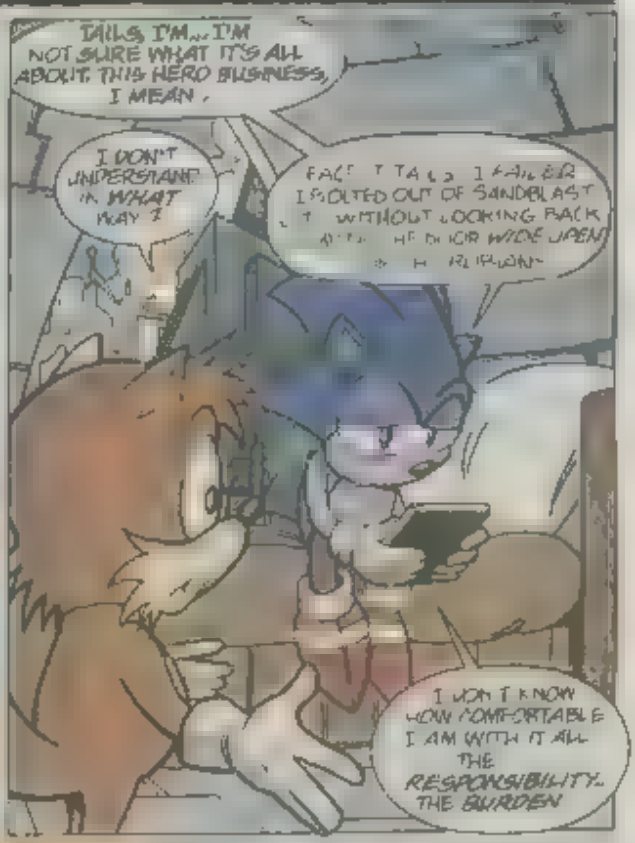
YOUR ROYAL HEROSHIP SIR WE'RE SO SORRY WE WERE JUST SO ENGROSSED IN YOUR ADVENTURES AS ALWAYS
WE HAVE THEM ALL CATALOGUED, YOU KNOW. BUT WE CONSTANTLY REVIEW THEM TO MAKE SURE THERE'S NOTHING WE MISSED THEY CAN GET PRETTY DEEP
YEAH, YOU SHOULD HEAR OUR AFTERNOON TEA TIME DISCUSSIONS WE OFTEN DISAGREE ON THE MEANING OF YOUR ADVENTURES.

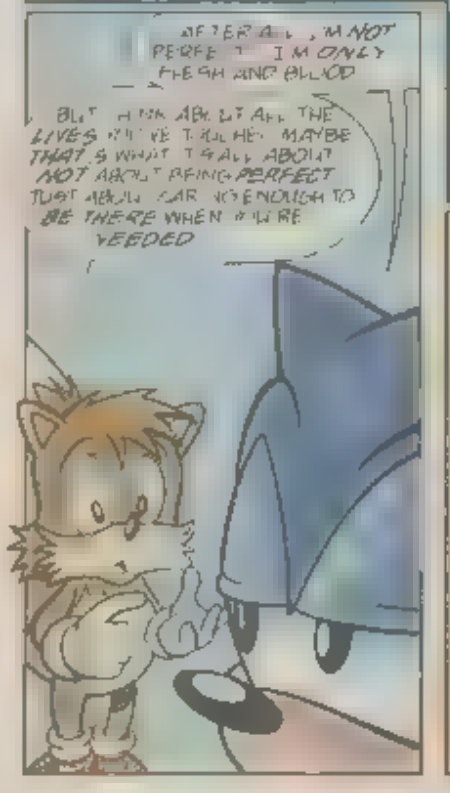

YEAH, LIKE WHY AREN'T YOU AND SALLY AN ITEM? YOU SHOULD BE TOGETHER NOT APART I DON'T LIKE SONIC AND SALLY SHOULD BE TOGETHER
I DON'T BUY THE BIT WHERE YOU
QUIET
WHAT ANYONE
A LIFETIME ONLY HERS WAS EXTENDED

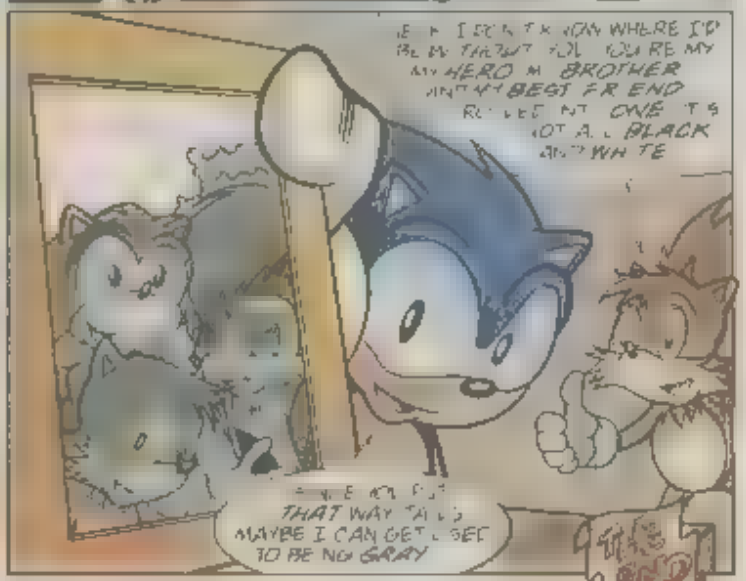
BUT WE ONE THING YOU'RE OUR HERO NO MATTER WHAT WE LOVE YOU YOU CAN DO NO WRONG


AN DO NO WRONG
AN DO NO WRONG

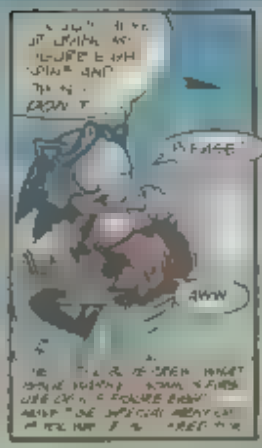
TAILS, I'M GLAD YOU CAME OVER
OF COURSE BUDDY - DON'T MENTION IT WHAT'S WRONG ?

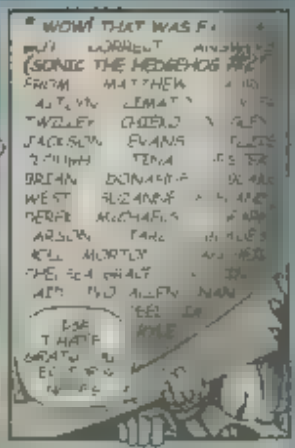

TAILS, I'M... I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, THIS HERO BUSINESS, I MEAN.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IN WHAT WAY ?
I DON'T KNOW HOW COMFORTABLE I AM WITH IT ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY. THE BURDEN


AFTER ALL, I'M NOT PERFECT. I'M ONLY FLESH AND BLOOD
BUT THINK ABOUT ALL THE LIVES YOU'VE TOUCHED. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT NOT ABOUT BEING PERFECT JUST ABOUT CARING ENOUGH TO BE THERE WHEN YOU'RE NEEDED


I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D BE WITHOUT YOU. YOU'RE MY HERO, MY BROTHER AND MY BEST FRIEND. RELATIONSHIP ONE IS NOT A BLACK AND WHITE
THAT WAY TAILS MAYBE I CAN GET A SEE TO BE NO GRAY
THE END

SONIC IGRAMS





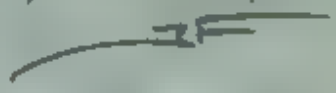
OFF PANEL **by Gallagher & Manak**

THIS JUST IN!

What's up, Hog & Knux fans? As you know, we get a lot of mail (and I do mean A LOT!) in the Sonic and Knuckles office every day. I'm not just talking about snail mail, either; we receive hundreds of e-mails as well. Most talk about their interest in the book and what's going on in recent issues. Others ask so many questions it can make your head spin right off like a top. And still many others discuss their collection and how to complete it by searching for the missing issues. The ones I want to discuss in this editorial are the ones for many of our freelance talent. There are many fans who want to write directly to them, specifically to the writers and artists who make our favorite characters come to life. Well, if you are one of those fans, here's how to do it. All you have to do is mail it to us, and we will gladly forward it to whomever you want to write to. Just simply send your letters to:

Sonic & Knuckles Talent
Attn: (Name of person)
c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box #419
Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

Catch you on the flip side!



PS: You don't want to miss the next issue! Nothing you can do will prepare you for this issue. As soon as you open up to the first page you'll know that it is as strange as its cover. You've been warned!

[illegible]
TO: ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419
E-MAIL: jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
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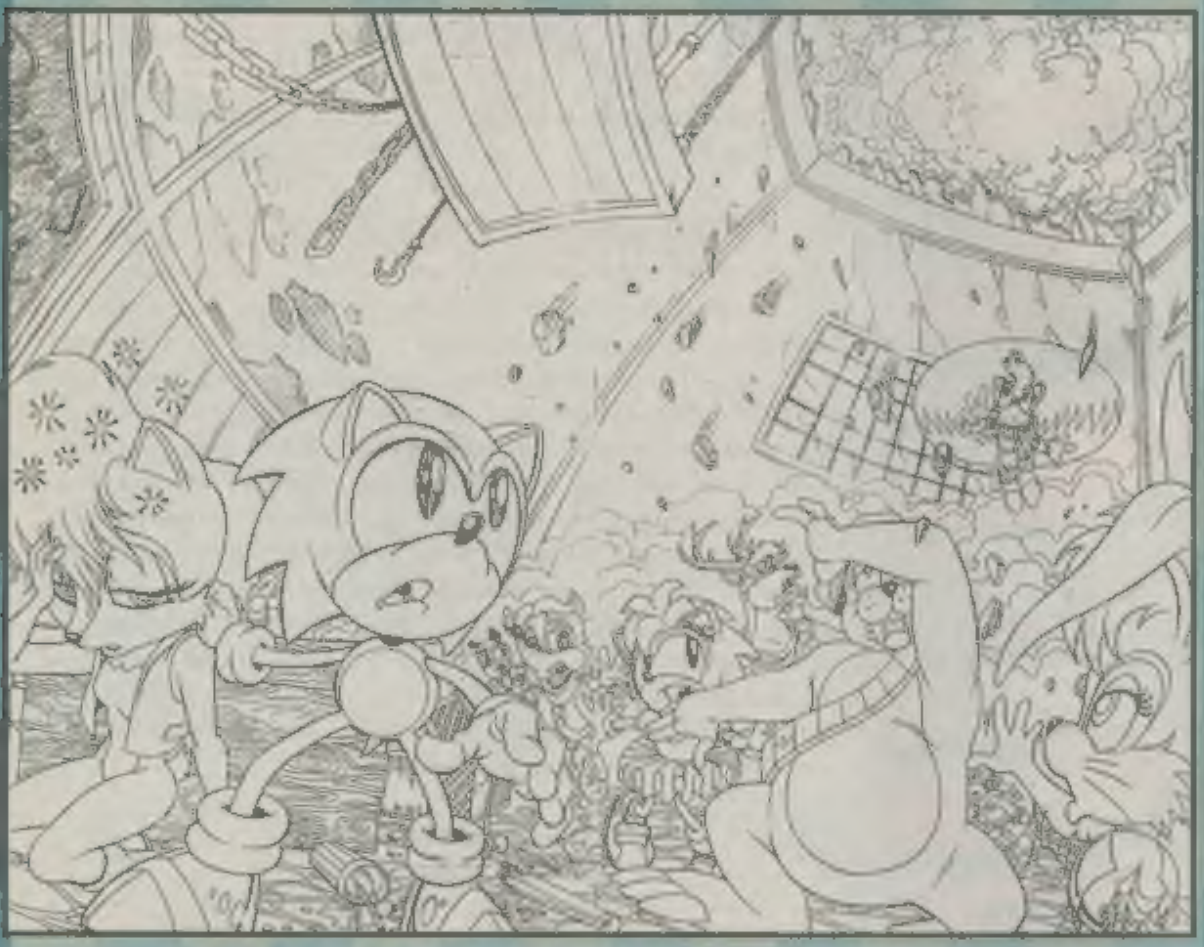
Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

We interrupt this regularly scheduled letters page to bring you a bonus feature not normally seen: (The following is a double spread of the explosion scene after the first page. Unfortunately, there was one page too many for this month to support, so the decision was made to make this page into a splash instead. We just thought you might like to see what the page would've looked like had we had the room in its original penciled form. Enjoy!) We will now return you to this month's letters page already in progress which will make its appearance next month...



COMING ATTRACTIONS

In two weeks: Knuckles in chains! The Brotherhood — captured! Haven is under control of... The Dark Legion! Has everyone on The Floating Island gone mad! And all this is happening on the eve of elections, when the stakes are at their highest. Dimitri is one happy puppy. Check out the conclusion to the "Dark Alliance" story arc written by Ken Penders with guest art by Jim Valentino and Harvo!

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #24 on sale early March 1999!

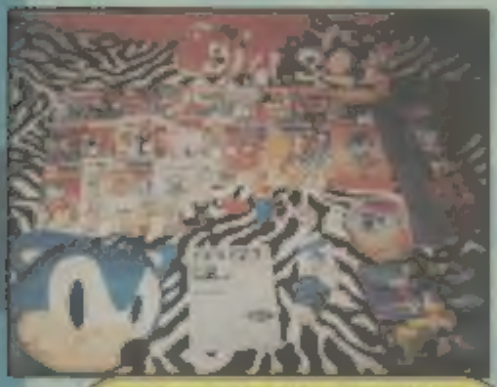
Next Month: We've billed it as the strangest issue of Sonic you will ever read! Why? It could be because it's a completely backwards issue. It has a lot to do with Knothole Village being in danger because it's three hours ahead. Just wait 'til you see what happens when Sonic tries to save it. Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eklund. Also: Tails and Amy visit the library. By Ken Penders, Art Mawhinney and Jim Amash!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #71 on sale late March 1999!

SONIC FAN ART

MARC-OLIVIER PLOUFFE
HULL, QUEBEC
CANADA

RINA 'CAT' T.O.F.
(AGE 17)
MALAYSIA



STEPHEN GRZYBOWSKI
(AGE 12)
WALKER, MI

KATE COLLINS
(AGE 12)
HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ

If you'd like your drawing printed, please send to:
"SONIC FAN ART #70"
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PRO ART BY

DAVID BREWER & ANDREW PEPOY.

COLOR & ENJOY!

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